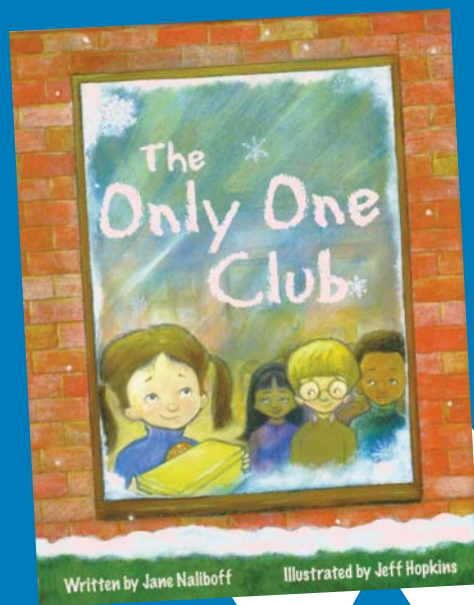




# The Only One Club

By Jane Naliboff  
Illustrated by Jeff Hopkins

Flashlight Press: 2004



## Other books about Christmas and Hanukkah:

*Elijah's Angel* by Michael J. Rosen

*My Two Grandmothers* by Effin Older

*The Trees of the Dancing Goats* by Patricia Polacco

*The Christmas Tapestry* by Patricia Polacco

*Chanukah Lights Everywhere* by Michael J. Rosen

*Beni's First Chanukah* by Jane Breskin Zalben

## Other books featuring strong Jewish girls:

*Rivka's First Thanksgiving* by Elsa Okon Rael

*The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band* by Cary Fagan

*Rachel Captures the Moon* by Richard Ungar

*When Mindy Saved Hanukkah* by Eric A. Kimmel

*Raisel's Riddle* by Erica Silverman

*Gittel's Hands* by Erica Silverman

*What Zeesie Saw on Delancey Street* by Elsa Okon Rael

*The Way Meat Loves Salt* by Nina Jaffe

*The Carp in the Bathtub* by Barbara Cohen

*The Pirate Princess and Other Fairytales* by Marc Philip



### ● Uniqueness and infinite value

Central within Jewish thought is the concept that each person is unique and has infinite value. This idea is not only important because it explains what we all know to be true - that while people can be remarkably similar, they are never the same - but also serves to remind us that every single person contains something that is uniquely his or hers to offer the world. Knowing that each person is unique and infinitely valuable should not only remind us to treat each other with the highest regard, but also teach us that no person is better, or more worthy, than another.

According to Jewish teachings, "This is why human beings are created as individuals: to teach you that anyone who destroys a life, it is as though he has destroyed an entire world and anyone who saves a single life, it is as though he has saved the entire world."

### ● The Jewish Star

The six-pointed star, sometimes called the Jewish Star, is also known as the Star of David. In Hebrew it is called *Magen David*, which literally translates as "Shield of David." While there is no historical proof, tradition teaches that it represents either the shield worn by King David or an emblem on his shield. The Star of David is a well-recognized symbol of Judaism and Jewish identity. It holds a place of honor on the center of the Israeli flag since Israel's statehood in 1948.



*The Only One Club* lends itself to great family discussion! Here are some questions that come to mind when reading the book:

- How did Jennifer feel about being the only one in her class to celebrate Hanukkah?
- Why did Jennifer decide to form the Only One Club?
- Why didn't she want the other kids to be a part of her club?
- Why did she decide in the end to include them?
- In Jennifer's class, everyone is the "only one" of something. What about in your class, or among your friends and family? Can you think of what makes each of them unique?
- Have you ever felt like the "only one" of something? What did you do about it?
- You and your child can visit the publisher's website ([www.FlashlightPress.com](http://www.FlashlightPress.com)), find the picture of *The Only One Club*, and click on it. There you can see examples of how people are the "only one" of something. Even the author and illustrator are included on the list. Ask your children to think of the special ways they are unique. Maybe your children will want to add their names to the list!